

Applicant: Griffin
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IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the following claims as indicated.

1. (Currently amended) A portable foldable ramp comprising

~~first, second, third and fourth~~ a plurality of ramp sections disposed

longitudinally end to end, each section comprising a runway with ~~an a~~ top

surface and a lower surface ~~and longitudinal first and second ends~~,

a hinge ~~with a hinge bar~~ connecting each pair of adjacent ramp sections end

to end longitudinally, including a hinge bar, and

end members transverse on adjacent ramp section ~~longitudinal first and~~

~~second ends~~ each end member with an abutting surface facing outward

from its respective section end with its normal longitudinal with the ramp

~~adapted the runway ending at the end members~~ with opposing said

abutting surfaces of said end members of adjacent sections ~~directly~~

abutting together longitudinally when the ramp is unfolded, rotating on

said hinges into and out of abutment such that load forces are conveyed

through abutted sections to ramp ends, said hinge spaced apart from said

end members so as not to interfere with said end member abutment,

wherein said hinges respectively connecting the abutting section ends are

disposed under section runway lower surfaces such that all sections curl

together in a same first direction of rotation to fold and uncurl in a second

direction of rotation opposite said first direction of rotation to unfold, a

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runway undersurface of the a first section at a ramp first end folding into parallel face-to-face opposition with a runway undersurface of ~~the an~~ adjacent second section forming a pair of sections, said pair of sections rotating with the top surface of said first section folding into parallel face-to-face opposition with the bottom surface of ~~the a~~ third section adjacent said second section forming a trio of sections, ~~said trio of sections rotating with the upper section of said second section folding into parallel face to face opposition with the bottom surface of the fourth section forming a compact quartet of sections.~~

2. (Cancel) The portable foldable ramp of claim 1 in which the end members come into abutment with adjacent sections unfolded to less than 180 degrees, the sections collectively forming an approximate arc bowed downward.
3. (Currently amended) The portable foldable ramp of claim 1 wherein a lower adjacent section and an adjacent upper section of said plurality of sections each further comprising comprise strengthening ribs extending longitudinally along the respective runway bottom surfaces between section end members and terminating in longitudinal abutment with said end members with the respective a said hinge bars bar passing through rib holes longitudinally between the section end members on one at an upper end of said lower

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section end and with rib hinge ears extending downward from the ribs on
another a lower end of said upper section end extending from the ribs beyond
the section ends end member at said lower end of said upper section to the
respective said hinge bar which passes passing through said rib holes in the
rib ears in like manner of the section panels in said upper end of said lower
section below the ribs of the lower section.

4. (Currently amended) The portable foldable ramp of claim 1 wherein the hinges are spaced apart from the runway bottom surfaces respective measured distances such that the ramp folds in curling fashion with sections in stacked nesting with section surfaces into close face-to-face opposition.
5. (Currently amended) The portable foldable ramp of claim 1 wherein said end members comprise a plurality of end member portions and wherein each section comprises a plurality of inverted open boxes open at their bottoms comprising lateral sides with longitudinal ends of boxes collectively comprising said section end members member portions bridging adjacent lateral sides, with outer lateral sides of outer boxes on section sides comprising section panels, and with inner lateral sides of boxes forming comprising longitudinal strengthening ribs therein closing each box circumference.

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6. (Currently amended) The portable foldable ramp of claim 1 wherein the hinge
between a lower adjacent section and an adjacent upper section of said
plurality of sections further comprises
a said hinge bar passing through section-hinge holes in a hinge plate
extending vertically downward under the runway lower surface of a first, or
lower, the lower section longitudinally between the section end members
at an upper end of said lower section inward the first section from a first
section end member on a first section first end, and
a hinge ear on a second lower end of a second, or upper, the upper section
adjacent the first section extending longitudinally downward from the
second section under the runway lower surface of the first lower section
alongside said hinge plate of the lower section aligning holes in the hinge
plate and the hinge ear through which holes the hinge bar passes such
that when the second upper section folds under the first lower section it
the upper section is under the lower section inward of the end member at
the first lower section first upper end.
7. (Currently amended) The portable foldable ramp of claim 6 wherein each
second upper section of an adjacent pair is smaller than its subsequent
adjacent first lower section both longitudinally and transversely such that it
the upper section fits within it the lower section.

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8. (Currently amended) The portable foldable ramp of claim 6 wherein said hinge ears of said ~~second-adjacent-upper~~ section fit on-the-hinge-bar-inward of the hinge plate of the ~~first-adjacent-lower~~ section.
9. (Previously presented) The portable foldable ramp of claim 6 wherein the sections further comprise vertical panels on section lateral sides from which the hinge ears and hinge plates extend.
10. (Previously presented) The portable foldable ramp of claim 9 wherein the section panels of each side slide in scissor-like fashion with respective section panels of an adjacent section upon ramp folding, mutually aligning the folding sections.
11. (Currently amended) The portable foldable ramp of claim 1 further comprising a wheel on each side of the third section near its end adjacent the second section extending beyond said end such that ~~when the third section is folded into the fourth section,~~ the wheel extends longitudinally beyond the folded ramp sections and the folded ramp is wheelable on said wheels.
12. (Canceled) The portable foldable ramp of claim 11 wherein the fourth section is of length such that the folded ramp stands freely on its wheels and the fourth section distal end.

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13. (Canceled) The portable ramp of claim 11 wherein the hinge bar between third and fourth sections is accessible as a handle in negotiating the wheelable folded ramp.
14. (Previously presented) The portable foldable ramp of claim 3 wherein ribs of adjacent panels fold side by side in scissor-like fashion in aligning the sections during folding.
15. (Currently amended) The portable foldable ramp of claim 44 3 wherein each first section rib comprises first and second parallel spaced apart rib members forming a slot therebetween aligned with a rib of the third section such that upon folding the first and second sections as a pair into nesting configuration with the third section, the ribs of the third section move into said first section slots, therein enabling the first section runway top surface to move into close parallel opposition with the third section lower surface ~~impeded~~ unimpeded by third section ribs.
16. (Currently amended) The portable foldable ramp of claim 44 3 further comprising said trio of sections rotating with the upper section of said second section folding into parallel face-to-face opposition with the bottom surface of a fourth section adjacent said third section forming a compact quartet of sections wherein each second section rib comprises first and second parallel spaced apart rib members forming a slot therebetween aligned with a rib of

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the fourth section such that upon folding the first, second and third sections as a trio into nesting configuration with the fourth section, the ribs of the fourth section move into said second section slots, therein enabling the second section runway top surface to move into close parallel opposition with the fourth section lower surface ~~impeded~~ unimpeded by fourth section ribs.

17. (Currently amended) A portable foldable ramp comprising multiple segments hinged end to end and foldable on hinges, sections decreasing in size both longitudinally and transversely from a largest section on a first ramp end to a smallest section on a second ramp end, the ramp curling in folding beginning with the smallest section nesting in a next larger adjacent section until the two largest section on the first end sandwich the smaller sections nested therebetween with all sections in parallel disposition.

18. (Previously presented) The portable foldable ramp section of claim 17 wherein all sections curl relatively in the same first rotational direction in folding, and in a same second rotational directional opposite the first rotational direction in unfolding, limited in unfolding rotation by section end to end abutment.

19. (Currently amended) A portable foldable ramp comprising ~~first, second, third and fourth~~ a plurality of ramp sections disposed longitudinally end to end, each section comprising a runway with ~~an a~~ top surface and a lower surface ~~and longitudinal first and second ends~~,

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a hinge with a hinge bar connecting each pair of adjacent ramp sections end
~~to end longitudinally, and~~
 end members transverse on adjacent ramp section longitudinal first and
~~second ends~~ each end member with an abutting surface facing outward
from its respective section end with its normal longitudinal with the ramp
~~adapted with opposing~~ said abutting surfaces of said end members of
 adjacent sections directly abutting together longitudinally when the ramp
 is unfolded, rotating on said hinges into and out of abutment such that
 load forces are conveyed through abutted sections to ramp ends, said
 hinge spaced apart from said end members so as not to interfere with
 said end member abutment,
 wherein said hinges respectively connecting the abutting section ends are
 disposed under section runway lower surfaces such that all sections curl
 together in a same first direction of rotation to fold and uncurl in a second
 direction of rotation opposite said first direction of rotation to unfold, a
 runway undersurface of the ~~a~~ first section at a ramp first end folding into
 parallel face-to-face opposition with a runway undersurface of the ~~an~~
adjacent second section forming a pair of sections, said pair of sections
 rotating with the top surface of said first section folding into parallel face-
 to-face opposition with the bottom surface of the ~~a~~ third section adjacent

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said second section forming a trio of sections, said trio of sections rotating with the upper section of said second section folding into parallel face-to-face opposition with the bottom surface of the a fourth section adjacent said third section forming a compact quartet of sections, ~~wherein the end members come into abutment with adjacent sections unfolded to less than 180 degrees, the sections collectively forming an approximate arc bowed downward,~~ and wherein the hinge comprises a hinge bar passing through ~~section hinge holes in a hinge plate extending vertically downward under the runway lower surface of a first adjacent section of an adjacent pair inward the first section from a first section end member on a first section first end a first, or lower, the lower section longitudinally between the section end members at an upper end of said lower section inward the first section from a first section end member on a first section first end, and~~ a hinge ear on a second lower end of a second, or upper, the upper section adjacent the first section extending longitudinally downward from the ~~second section under the runway lower surface of the first lower section alongside said hinge plate of the lower section aligning holes in the hinge plate and the hinge ear through which holes the hinge bar passes such~~

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that when the second upper section folds under the first lower section it
the upper section is under the lower section inward of the end member at
the first lower section first-upper end,

the sections further comprising vertical panels on section lateral sides from
which the hinge ears and hinge plates extend, wherein the section panels
of each side slide in scissor-like fashion with respective section panels of
an adjacent section upon ramp folding, mutually aligning the folding
sections,

wherein the hinges are spaced apart from the runway bottom surfaces
~~respective measured distances~~ such that the ramp folds in curling fashion
with sections in stacked nesting with section surfaces into close face-to-
face opposition,

wherein a lower adjacent section and an adjacent upper section of said
plurality of sections each further comprising comprise strengthening ribs
extending longitudinally along the respective runway bottom surfaces
between section end members and terminating in longitudinal abutment
with said end members with ~~the respective a said~~ hinge bars ~~bar~~ passing
through rib holes longitudinally between the section end members ~~on one~~
at an upper end of said lower section end and with rib hinge ears on
~~another a lower end of said upper section end~~ extending from the ribs

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beyond the ~~section ends~~ end member at said lower end of said upper
section to the respective said hinge bar which passes passing through
said rib holes in the rib ears in like manner of the section panels in said
upper end of said lower section, wherein ribs of adjacent panels fold side
 by side in scissor-like fashion in aligning the sections during folding,
 wherein each first section rib comprises first and second parallel spaced
 apart rib members forming a slot therebetween aligned with a rib of the
 third section such that upon folding the first and second sections as a pair
 into nesting configuration with the third section, the ribs of the third
 section move into said first section slots, therein enabling the first section
 runway top surface to move into close parallel opposition with the third
 section lower surface ~~impeded~~ unimpeded by third section ribs, and
 wherein each second section rib comprises first and second parallel
 spaced apart rib members forming a slot therebetween aligned with a rib
 of the fourth section such that upon folding the first, second and third
 sections as a trio into nesting configuration with the fourth section, the
 ribs of the fourth section move into said second section slots, therein
 enabling the second section runway top surface to move into close
 parallel opposition with the fourth section lower surface ~~impeded~~
unimpeded by fourth section ribs.

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20. (Previously presented) The portable foldable ramp of claim 19 wherein the slots of said first and second sections divide the section runway into an inner surface sandwiched between outer surfaces.
21. (Previously presented) The portable foldable ramp of claim 20 wherein the inner surface is different from the outer surfaces.
22. (New claim). The portable foldable ramp of claim 1 wherein a lower adjacent section and an adjacent upper section of said plurality of sections each further comprise strengthening ribs extending longitudinally along the respective runway bottom surfaces between section end members and terminating in longitudinal abutment with said end members
23. (New claim). The portable foldable ramp of claim 1 wherein a said hinge bar passes through rib holes longitudinally between the section end members at an upper end of said lower section and with rib hinge ears extending downward from the ribs on a lower end of said upper section extending from the ribs beyond the end member at said lower end of said upper section to said hinge bar passing through said rib holes in said upper end of said lower section below the ribs of the lower section.
24. (New claim) The portable foldable ramp of claim 1 further comprising said trio of sections rotating with the upper section of said second section folding into

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parallel face-to-face opposition with the bottom surface of a fourth section
adjacent said third section forming a compact quartet of sections.

25. (New claim) A portable foldable ramp comprising

a plurality of ramp sections disposed longitudinally end to end including a first
section and a second section longitudinally adjacent the first section, each
section comprising a runway,

a hinge with a hinge bar connecting the adjacent ramp sections, and
end members transverse on adjacent ramp section ends each end member
with an abutting surface facing outward from its respective section end
with its normal longitudinal with the ramp the runway ending at the end
members with said abutting surfaces of said end members abutting
together longitudinally when the ramp is unfolded, rotating on the hinge
into and out of abutment such that load forces are conveyed through
abutted sections to ramp ends.

26. (New claim) The portable foldable ramp of claim 25 wherein the runway
comprises a plurality of runway segments and wherein at least one of said
sections comprises a plurality of adjacent boxes, each box comprising two
opposing lateral sides spaced apart by two opposing longitudinal sides, the
lateral sides and longitudinal sides connecting to form a continuous box
circumference, the end member of said section comprising a box longitudinal

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side and respective runway segments comprising box tops, the hinge bar
passing through aligned holes in adjacent boxes securing the adjacent boxes
together.